

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 were pending in the application. The claims have been amended to improve clarity and to place the claims in more typical U.S. format. New claims 19-23 have been added, and no claims have been canceled. Therefore, claims 1-23 are now pending in the present application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Specification Objections

The specification is objected to because several trademarks/tradenames appear in the specification without a trademark symbol. The specification has been amended where appropriate.

Applicant appreciates the suggestion to submit a copy of the JIS standards, and will likely submit this information in a subsequent communication.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,283,507 to Kami et al. (hereinafter "Kami") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,359,735 to Stockwell (hereinafter "Stockwell"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites a first silicone placed on at least one of the opposed sides of the two portions, the first silicone comprising a thermosetting silicone, and a second silicone interposed between the two portions at a junction, the second silicone comprising a solventless addition room-temperature-vulcanizing adhesive silicone. These features have the advantage of providing an airbag having lower air permeability, a smaller folded volume, and better endurance.

Kami discloses an airbag that could be coated with a heat resistant elastomer, such as a silicone system. (Col. 9, lines 16-18.) Stockwell discloses a layered surface coating comprising alternating layers of a coating compound 14 and hollow microspheres 16. (Fig. 1 and col. 5, lines 16-29.) Stockwell also discloses that the coating compound 14 include a silicone rubber adhesive sealant, which may be any

one-part or two-part silicone. (Col. 6, lines 42-51.) As commonly known in the art, a two-part silicone is a system in which two chemicals must be thoroughly mixed prior to the curing or setting reaction. For example, paragraph [0037] of the present application discloses a two-part RTV silicone containing a mixture of silicone and curing component.

Assuming *arguendo* that Kami and Stockwell are combinable as suggested in the Office Action, the combination discloses an airbag that could be coated with a single two-part silicone system, or an airbag that could be coated with a layered surface coating comprising alternating layers of a single two-part silicone system and hollow microspheres. The combination does not teach, suggest, or disclose multiple distinct types of silicones. Specifically, the cited references, even in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or disclose a first silicone placed on at least one of the opposed sides of the two portions, the first silicone comprising a thermosetting silicone, and a second silicone interposed between the two portions at a junction, the second silicone comprising a solventless addition room-temperature-vulcanizing adhesive silicone. Thus, claim 1, and all claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be patentable over the cited references. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 18 recites a similar patentable limitation, and is believed to be patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

New claim 19 recites a similar patentable limitation. Thus, claim 19, and all claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance, and favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 11/6/03

By *Richard L. Schwaab* 50,443

FOLEY & LARDNER
Customer Number: 22428



22428

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Telephone: (202) 672-5414

Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Richard L. Schwaab
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 25,479

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0741 for any such fees.